and price preference to the products of small scale industries, the Government is following a policy (non-statutory) which prescribes certain items as reserved for exclusive purchase from micro and small enterprises by the Ministries/Departments and CPSUs of the Government of India. Many State Governments, on their part, have also been enforcing certain purchase and price preference policies for assisting micro and small enterprises located in their States. Because of the non-statutory nature of these purchase/price preference policies followed by the Government of India and the State Governments and keeping in mind the reports about violations owing to their non-statutory nature, the MSMED Act, 2006 enables the Government of India and the State Governments to notify, from time to time preference policies in respect of procurement of goods and services, produced and provided by micro and small enterprises by their Ministries or Departments, as the case may be, or aided institutions or public sector enterprises.

(e) The Ministry of Small Scale Industries and the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries do not operate any scheme for specifically targeting unemployed graduate girls to enable them to set up micro/small enterprises, though they do encourage entrepreneurship among women in general.

Closing of SSIs

1166. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increasing trend of closing or locking out of SSIs in view of increasing competition;

(b) if so, the details of closed, locked out small scale industries between 1995-2005;

(c) the number of employees who lost their livelihood due to these closures and lock outs; and

(d) whether Government would consider any plan to ensure the livelihood of these employees?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The information on number of small scale industries

(SSIs) closing or locking out in view of increasing competition is not maintained centrally.

(c) and (d) The data on the number of employees who lost their livelihood due to closures and lock outs in the SSI sector are not maintained centrally. However, works and technicians rendered jobless due to closure and lock out of SSI units can avail of the self-employment opportunities under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana and Rural Employment Generation Programme being implemented by the Central Government throughout the country.

Comprehensive promotional package for SSIs

1167. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive promotional package for SSI sector has been prepared and the Cabinet approval has also been obtained for this purpose recently;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the promotional package which helps to boost the SSI sector in the country;

(c) how the proposed package would free the SSI sector from the Inspector Raj;

(d) whether there is any component in the package for providing them with technological support; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The Government will announce the package for promotion of micro and small enterprises soon.

Plastic bag manufacturing industrial units

1168. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how many small scale industrial units manufacturing plastic bags